

REMARKS

Claims 12-14, 16-19 and 21-29 are pending in this application. Claims 16-18 and 21-29 have been withdrawn by the Examiner, but should be rejoined and allowed when independent claim 12 is allowed. By this Amendment, claims 12, 14, 17, 19 and 22 are amended, and claims 15 and 20 are canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited therein. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The courtesies extended to Applicant's representative by Examiner Hinze at the interview held November 6, 2008, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below, which constitute Applicant's record of the interview.

The Office Action rejects claims 15 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. The rejection of canceled claims 15 and 20 is moot. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 12-15, 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Hiraga et al. (Hiraga), U.S. Patent No. 4,970,952, in view of Bengtsson, U.S. Patent No. 4,858,526. The rejection of canceled claims 15 and 20 is moot. The rejection of claims 12-14 and 19 is respectfully traversed.

As discussed during the interview, the combination of Hiraga and Bengtsson does not disclose, and would not have rendered obvious, a stamp having a movable print body that has a collar having a plane parallel to a direction perpendicular to the stamping direction at a portion that a damper member makes contact with, and an entire mating surface of the damper member mates with a planar mating surface of the collar, as recited in independent claim 12.

Hiraga discloses a date stamping apparatus having a platen 25 (allegedly corresponding to the claimed first print face) with an opening 25b through which printing faces (allegedly corresponding to the claimed second print face) can be exposed during stamping (see Fig. 2 and col. 3, lines 42-44). Further, Hiraga discloses that a spring 25a (allegedly corresponding to the claimed damper member) presses the platen 25 such that the printing faces are not exposed when stamping is not being done (see Fig. 2). However, as discussed during the interview, the spring 25a of Hiraga cannot reasonably be considered to have a planar mating surface. Bengtsson fails to overcome the deficiencies of Hiraga, and is only cited as allegedly disclosing the claimed first print face. Therefore, the combination of Hiraga and Bengtsson does not disclose, and would not have rendered obvious, a stamp having a movable print body that has a collar having a plane parallel to a direction perpendicular to the stamping direction at a portion that a damper member makes contact with, and an entire mating surface of the damper member mates with a planar mating surface of the collar, as recited in independent claim 12. Therefore, independent claim 12 and dependent claims 13, 14 and 19 are patentable over the combination of Hiraga and Bengtsson. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: November 18, 2008

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